

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT, UR, PO

SUBJECT: BERLINGUER-DEMARTINO ISSUE JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL

REF: ROME 11741

SUMMARY: IN A SURPRISE MOVE, COMMUNIST LEADER BERLINGUER AND
SOCIALIST LEADER DEMARTINO ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION ON PORTUGAL,
AUGUST 14, CALLING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE
COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE
MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE DOCUMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT
EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, BUT SURE TO SHARPEN POLEMICS BETWEEN THE
SOCIALISTS AND ITS ERSTWHILE CENTER-LEFT ALLIES IN ITALY.

NOTHING LIKE IT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE COMMON FRONT

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BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS. END SUMMARY

1. COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SECRETARY BERLINGUER AND SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY DEMARTINO (PSI) ISSUED AUGUST 14 A JOINT DECLARATION CALLING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGAL, AND BETWEEN THESE PARTIES AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. OPERATIVE PASSAGES ARE:

2. CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL "...WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS THE MOST INTENSE CONCERN OF ITALIAN COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS, CONVINCED THAT WE INTERPRET THE SENTIMENTS OF ALL DEMOCRATS AND ANTIFASCISTS..."
"...WE CONSIDER IT RIGHT AND OBLIGATORY TO EXPRESS OUR REQUEST THAT A POLITICAL AGREEMENT BE REACHED IN PORTUGAL AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, IN THE FIRST PLACE BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS AND BETWEEN THEM AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT; AN AGREEMENT BASED ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE POPULAR REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES AS IT EMERGED
FROM THE VOTE FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY..."

3. "...WE WISH THAT SUCH AN ACCORD SUCCEEDS IN GIVING BIRTH TO A POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY...OF WHICH A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WOULD BE THE EXPRESSION...PUTTING AN END ABOVE ALL TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE OFFICES AND MILITANTS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY...AND RESUMING THE MARCH TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SOCIETY PROFOUNDLY REFORMED IN ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES, AND BASED ON POLITICAL PLURALISM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE."

4. THE OPERATIVE PASSAGES ARE PREFACED BY "EMPHASIZED" REFERENCE TO THE "THE RECIPROCALLY AUTONOMOUS EVALUATIONS" OF THE PCI AND PSI OF THE PORTUGUESE TRIBULATIONS. NO OTHER ALLUSION TO PCI-PSI DIFFERENCES IS MADE.

5. COMMENT: THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS HASTILY COMPILED, AND CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE THAT IT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MUCH OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PCI AND PSI AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE. IT APPEARED EVEN AS POLEMICS WERE HEATING UP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES OVER UNITA'S HARSH CRITICISM OF SOARES, AND OF THE SOCIALISTS, AMONG OTHERS, FOR THEIR "SILENCE" OVER THE VIOLENCE BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS.

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REPORTEDLY, BERLINGUER AND DEMARTINO DID NOT MEET; THE DOCUMENT WAS COMPOSED BY SECRETARIATE MEMBER MANCA FOR THE PSI AND CERVETTI FOR THE PCI, AND INITIALED BY EACH OF THE LEADERS IN THEIR SEPARATE VACATION RETREATS.

6. NOTHING LIKE THE "DECLARATION" HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE PCI-PSI COMMON FRONT. DESPITE HIS EXPLICIT RESERVATIONS AGAINST RETURNING TO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS, DEMARTINO FACES A

NEW WAVE OF CHARGES THAT HE IS IN PRACTICE DOING SO, FIRST IN THE
FORMATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS, AND NOW ON FOREIGN POLICY.
IT REMAINS TO BE CLARIFIED WHY DEMARTINO AGREED TO AN INITIATIVE
WHICH, THOUGH UNLIKELY TO AFFECT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, COMPROMISES HIS
PARTY'S OFT REPEATED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, AND
IS ALREADY BEING INTERPRETED AS A VICTORY FOR BERLINGUER'S INTERNAL
AND FOREIGN POLICY. VOLPE

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